

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Love on 12/12/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claims 45-55 cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11, 18, 19, 28-30 and 41.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1: Closest prior art [Roux et al – US 7, 004,107), Shannon et al (US 2003/0192475)] do not teach claim limitations “an impedance setting section provided in addition to the matching circuit and arranged between said one of the first and second electrodes and the matching circuit on the first interconnection, the impedance setting section being configured to select a higher harmonic of a fundamental frequency of the RF power, which is input from the plasma into the first interconnection, and to set an impedance relative to the

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selected higher harmonic, thereby causing the higher harmonic to increase by a resonance action, the impedance setting section being capable of changing the selected higher harmonic to be treated as a resonance target”, and “wherein the impedance setting section comprises: an impedance change unit connected to the first interconnection through a shunt and configured to select the higher harmonic as a resonance target, and a filter disposed on the shunt between the first interconnection and the impedance change unit and configured to cut off the fundamental frequency of the RF power”.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAKESH K. DHINGRA whose telephone number is (571)272-5959. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 -6:00 (Monday - Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on (571)-272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Rakesh K Dhingra/
Examiner, Art Unit 1792

/Parviz Hassanzadeh/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792